

## STUDY TOUR TO GEORGIA AND/OR ARMENIA

Tbilisi, Georgia | 14-20/09/2024 &/or  
Yerevan, Armenia | 20-26/09/2024

**Aim group: Conductors and vocal leaders**

Dear members and friends of the European Choral Association,

It is our pleasure to invite you to discover two choral traditions at the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

We have designed the Study Tour as a modular system where you can choose between three possibilities and either visit one or both countries. The first and last days are always planned as travel days.

**Option 1: Study tour to Georgia | 14-20/9/2024**

**Option 2: Study tour to Armenia | 20-26/9/2024**

**Option 3: Study tour to both countries (Georgia and Armenia) | 14-26/9/2024**  
(with the option of extending the stay, arriving earlier or leaving later)

Below you will find the detailed programme and practical information for each programme.

You can apply via online registration form.

We look forward to welcoming you to beautiful countries with a rich choral heritage!

## DETAILED PROGRAMME OF THE STUDY TOURS

### Study tour to Georgia | 14-20/09/2024 (subject to changes)



#### **Saturday, 14/09/2024**

All those wishing to attend our Study Tour in Georgia should plan to arrive on Saturday 14th September. On this day visitors will have time to discover Tbilisi and meet and greet other participants at a dinner organized by our hosts.

#### **Sunday, 15/09/2024**

Visit the city of Rustavi. A short concert of Rustavi folk ensemble "Me Rustveli" will take place in the Ethnographic Museum of the city, located near the historical fortress. Visitors will also meet the Mayor of the city and listen to the Grand Concert of the "Tutarchela Youth Choir" in Rustavi Municipal Theater.

#### **Monday, 16/09/2024**

We will start the day with a tour of the capital city – Tbilisi. We will also visit State Folklore Centre (possibly meet the Georgian Minister of Culture), followed by a visit to the State ensemble "Basiani" and Trinity Cathedral / State Chamber Choir.

#### **Tuesday, 17/09/2024**

Excursion to the City of Gori and Uplistsikhe – the ancient cave city (the price of the museum ticket is 7.5 Euros, the payment must be made individually before entering the museum). After visiting the tangible cultural heritage sites, we will learn about the intangible heritage, which will be presented by "Gori women Choir" and "Gori Girls' Choir".

#### **Wednesday, 18/09/2024**

We will visit historical monuments of Mtskheta, the ancient capital of Georgia. In the afternoon, we will meet the representatives of the Choral Society of Georgia and the "Student Choir of Tbilisi State Conservatoire".

#### **Thursday, 19/09/2024**

Meeting the State Chorus Capella of Georgia and Abkhazia and choral composers of Georgia. We will also learn about the work of the boys' Choir "Mdzlevari".

### **Friday, 20/09/2024**

The first part of the Study Tour ends here. Full of impressions, you will return home, or perhaps you will decide to extend your stay and join us for the second part, which will lead us on a journey of discovery of the choral traditions of Armenia. You can buy a bus or taxi ticket from Tbilisi to Yerevan online (contacts are [HERE](#)) or pay directly after the trip and it costs around 40-45€. The Armenian team will greet you at the bus station.

## **Study tour to Armenia | 20-26/09/2024** (subject to changes)



### **Friday, 20/09/2024**

All those wishing to attend only a Study Tour to Armenia should plan to arrive on Saturday, September 20. On this day you will have time to discover vivid Yerevan, a city that is older than ancient Rome.

### **Saturday, 21/09/2024**

We are very excited to start our Study Tour to Armenia on a very special day, Armenia Independence Day, and we will make it a day to remember. We will have short sessions on the history of Armenian choral singing, attend a rehearsal of the Yerevan Chamber Choir, and then visit the Matenadaran - center of Armenian and world written heritage, one of the main symbols of Armenia. We will learn about the old Armenian music system, enjoy a small concert in the museum and in the evening we will have a welcoming dinner and enjoy delicious Armenian cuisine.

### **Sunday, 22/09/2024**

We will visit the Church of Saint Gregory the Illuminator and enjoy the Armenian liturgy, as liturgical music is the basis of Armenian choral singing. This will be followed by a visit to the choral festival

dedicated to the 155th anniversary of Comitas, we will attend the repetition of the choir "Paros" for the disabled and the opera "Anoosh" by A. Tigranyan.

### **Monday, 23/09/2024**

We will watch a film about children's choirs that have succeeded not only in Armenia, but also internationally. This will be followed by a panel discussion with local conductors and choirs, a visit to a rehearsal of the "Armenian State Academic Choir" and enjoying a concert by the "Song and dance ensemble after Tatul Altunyan".

### **Tuesday, 24/09/2024**

We will start the day with a trip to the Echmiatsin - Armenia's spiritual center and the first Christian church, followed by a meeting at Gevorgyan Seminary, where you will enjoy a short performance by the seminary's men's choir. We will then visit the Armenian Cognac Factory where we will have a tour and tasting.

### **Wednesday, 25/09/2024**

On a tour from Yerevan to the historical monuments of Khor Virap, Garni - the only Hellenistic temple in Armenia - and Geghard, we will learn about Armenia's rich history. Upon our return, we will have some free time to discover Yerevan and in the evening we will meet for a concert by the Armenian State Chamber Choir - "Miqeyan Choir" and the closing ceremony.

### **Thursday, 26/09/2024**

We have come to the end of our time together. We trust that this epic journey will leave you with many great memories and may inspire you for your future work. You can stay a few more days in the region and organize your own trip or ask us for advice.

Please carefully read the practical information on the following pages where you will also find the registration link and hotel information.

## **REGISTRATION**

**How to register -> [link to registration form is HERE](#)**  
**Deadline for registering -> 15 March 2024**

Registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.  
**20 places are available for each Study Tour.**



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### ACCOMODATION

**!! IMPORTANT: Accommodation is NOT included in the participation fees published below, so participants have to book their own hotel rooms !! The following is just a recommendation on the choice of the hotel.**

#### Accommodation in Georgia

Our official "Study Tour" hotel in Georgia will be the [Hotel Irmeni](#), 1 Martkopi St., Tbilisi. The hotel Irmeni is offering participants the following rates:

- 1 night for 1 person - 50 eur
- 1 night for 2 people - 60 eur

These prices include breakfast.

These prices include a discount, which is only valid during the period of the Study Tour to Georgia and is only available to the participants.

If you would like to stay at [Hotel Irmeni](#), and you would like to profit from these special rates, **please write to the [tutarchela2007@yahoo.com](mailto:tutarchela2007@yahoo.com) by 15 March 2024** indicating which rooms you would like to book and local organisers will make a reservation for you. If you want these special rates, you should not book a room online. Upon arrival, you will pay the cost individually at the hotel reception on site.

If you would like to stay in a cheaper hotel or hostel, you can also check other options.

#### Accommodation in Armenia

Our official "Study Tour" hotel in Armenia will be the [Ani Plaza Hotel](#), Sayat Nova 19, in the center of Yerevan. This is a highly qualified hotel in Yerevan. The hotel is offering participants special rates all for single rooms:

- Standard room: 88 EUR per room & night
- Junior Room: 95 EUR per room & night
- Panorama room: 130 EUR per room & night

(the amount is calculated at the current euro rate)

These prices include breakfast, the city tax and the use of a swimming pool.

These prices include a discount, which is valid during the period of the Study Tour to Armenia and is available only for the participants.

If you would like to stay at the Ani Plaza Hotel and you would like to profit from these special rates, **please book your rooms by sending an e-mail by March 15<sup>th</sup> 2024** with the

reservation promo code "**Study Tour to Armenia 48053**" to [reservation@anihotel.com](mailto:reservation@anihotel.com) indicating which rooms you would like to book from which date to which date.

You can also book additional nights before/after our Study Tour for the same rates. You will have to pay the hotel directly, and the preferential rules are only valid until 15/03/2024! If you would like to stay in a cheaper hotel or hostel, you can also check other options.

Another good point about the hotel is that it is located very close to the main meeting hall of our event, so it is a great starting point for a walk through the streets of Yerevan to our meetings. For lunch we propose a branch of cafeteria chain "ArtLunch" very close to the main meeting room (Alek Manoogian 5).

## TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL

**Tbilisi, Georgia:** Transport from the airport to the hotel can be arranged by a local organizer. If you would like assistance in arranging an airport shuttle, please use the contact details below to let the local organizers know your arrival and departure times. The following conditions apply to transport costs:

If 1, 2 or 3 people arrive at the same time, a Hotel Irmeni shuttle will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel (after prior reservation with the local organizer). Transport costs - 20 EUR for 1 transfer (it can be shared between 2-3 passengers). Other transport costs during the Study Tour are included in the participation fee.

**Yerevan, Armenia:** Transport from the airport to the hotel will be organized and covered by local organizers, so please let them know your final travel plans using the contact details below. The same will be arranged for those traveling from Georgia to Armenia. The local team will be waiting for you at the bus stop.

## PARTICIPATION FEES

**Participation fee for the Georgian part includes all meals** (lunches, dinners, coffee breaks), local transfers, concerts, performances and participation in the different events. **It does NOT include accommodation (see above).**

\*The participation fee for the Georgian part is calculated on the assumption that we do not receive local subsidies. However, if we are successful and will receive co-funding in 2024, the fee will be lower.

**Participation fee for the Armenian part includes only 2 meals** (1 common dinner and 1 common lunch), coffee breaks, concerts, performances, local transportations, sim cards, individual translators participation in the different events and excursions. **It does NOT include other meals and accommodation (see above).**

**IMPORTANT:** Below you will see the participation fees, where you will notice the difference in price, which mainly reflects the different organization of the meals (in Georgia, meals are part of the participation fee, in Armenia the participants will have to take care of their own meals, as mentioned there will be only one lunch and one dinner will be organized).

<b>PARTICIPATION FEE</b>	<u>Country Group 1</u>	<u>Country Group 2</u>	<u>Country Group 3</u>
*Georgia - for members and indirect members of ECA/ Friends / individual members of IFCM	500 €	400 €	300 €
*Armenia for members and indirect members of ECA / Friends /individual members of IFCM	220 €	170 €	120 €
Georgia for non-members	530 €	420 €	310 €
Armenia for non-members	250 €	190 €	130 €

\*We offer reduced participation fee for members and indirect members of the European Choral Association, Friends of the European Choral Association and individual members of IFCM

After registration, you will receive a confirmation letter that you have been accepted on the study tour, as well as the **invoice** from the organization

**Tutarchela Youth Choir from Georgia and/or**

**International Association of Armenian Culture,**

depending on whether you attend only one part or both parts of the Study Tour.

**Please note:** If you are planning to attend both parts of the Study Tour to Georgia and Armenia, your participation fee is the sum of the two fees and you will receive two different invoices.

<b>Country groups</b>			
Countries by country group	AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, HK, IE, IL, IS, IT, LI, LU, MT, NL, NO, SE, UK and some overseas countries, see below*	CZ, CY, EE, GR, HR, HU, LT, LV, PL, PT, SI, SK and some overseas countries, see below*	AL, AM, BA, BG, BY, GE, KZ, MD, ME, MK, RO, RS, RU, TR, UA
* For countries outside Europe the rule is that countries belong to group 1 according to the HDI index used by IFCM (see <a href="http://ifcm.net/membership-fees">http://ifcm.net/membership-fees</a> ), countries belonging to HDI groups 2 and 3 are in country group 2. Country group 3 is only reserved for European countries. If you are not sure which country group you belong to, write to <a href="mailto:info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org">info@EuropeanChoralAssociation.org</a>			

**If you are not sure if you are an indirect member**, please check the list of member organizations here: <https://europeanchoralassociation.org/member-organisations> Members of organizations in categories A1 and A2 are indirect members.

## CANCELLATION RULES

- If the participant cancels his application in July 2024, organizers will refund 50% of the fee.
- If the participant cancels his participation in August 2024, organizers will not refund your fee.
- Please note that we are not responsible for the cancellation rules of the hotel, we suggest that you take travel insurance.

## CONTACT

**Study Tour to Georgia** (Further information: <https://www.tutarchela.ge/>)

[tutarchela2007@yahoo.com](mailto:tutarchela2007@yahoo.com) (for German speakers)/  
[tutarchelayouthchoir@gmail.com](mailto:tutarchelayouthchoir@gmail.com) (for English speakers)

**Study Tour to Armenia** (Further information: [www.iaoac.org/](http://www.iaoac.org/))

[arevik@iaoac.org](mailto:arevik@iaoac.org) / [contact@iaoac.org](mailto:contact@iaoac.org)

**We look forward to seeing in September 2024 in Tbilisi and/or Yerevan!**

Event under the label of

Local organisers



General partners



In the framework of



Co-funded by the  
European Union

Promoted in cooperation with the International Federation of Choral Music - IFCM

